

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the application on page 1 by adding the following text immediately before the section entitled “Field of the Invention” and immediately after the title:

Cross Reference to Related Applications

The present application represents U.S. national stage of international application PCT/EP2003/009432, which had an international filing date of August 26, 2003, and which was published in English under PCT Article 21(2) on April 8, 2004. The international application claims priority to German application 102 45 164.8, filed on September 26, 2002.

Please amend the paragraph that appears on page 5 of the application, lines 18-20, to read as follows:

H₂S crude gas was passed ~~first~~ through a jet washer system supplied with methanol at 200 Nm³/h for 48 h. A degree of depletion of >50% was achieved, based on the crude gas.

Please amend the paragraph that appears on page 5 of the application, lines 22-27, to read as follows:

H₂S crude gas was passed ~~first~~ through a washing column operated with a methanol/triethanolamine mixture (5% triethanolamine) for 24 h at 10 Nm³/h. The sulfur forming as a result of decomposition of polysulfanes dissolved in the washing solution. A degree of depletion of 80% was achieved.